BOSTON UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

A STUDY OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE JUVENILE COURT IN RELATION TO THE COMMUNITY: NEW LONDON COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

A Thesis

Submitted by

Mary Agard Doherty

(B.E., New Britain State Teachers College, 1940)

In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for

the Degree of Master of Science in Social Service

1944

School of Social Work
Oct. 17, 1944
726

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The writer is indebted to Judge Fred D. Faulkner, Judge of the Second District of the State Juvenile Court of Connecticut and to Mr. Henry Begnal, Senior Probation Officer of New London County for permission to study the Juvenile Court records which made this study possible.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF MAPS

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The present world conflict has focused our attention on the problem of juvenile delinquency. Never before have we discussed this problem as extensively. Newspapers throughout the country have played up reported or expected increases in delinquency, and magazines and other publications likewise have featured it.

Because of our preoccupation with the war and because of the English findings of increased delinquency following their entrance into the war, the question has been raised as to whether the war and conditions resulting from it are increasing juvenile delinquency in our country. To throw light on this question, numerous studies have been made. Of particular interest is the one made by the National Probation Association. While of course we realize that not all delinquents come to the attention of the courts, there is probably no better gauge for determining trends than comparison of juvenile court records. Although coverage in this study was not complete, particularly as to the smaller county courts, it did cover findings from 153 jurisdictions and was felt by this Association to have been representative in that it covered various types of communities in different parts of the country. Although there was little uniformity among the courts, some reporting an increase more than average, while others showed a definite decrease, the trend was toward an increase in delinquency. The average increase for 1942 throughout the country was 16.6 %, using the year 1940 as a basis. It is possible that this increase

may be more apparent than real because of our growing recognition of the needs of children and a greater vigilance on the part of the police and other law enforcement agencies. For example, in New York City the great amount of newspaper discussion of delinquency has in known cases caused parents to take their children to court and has stimulated the police to pick up more children. Because of the growing awareness of the problem of delinquency on the part of the public and the interest in this problem, we have an opportunity at this time to improve and extend our services to children.[1/]

The crux of the matter, it seems, is to mobilize our resources with increased emphasis on the study and treatment of the delinquent, rather than punishment, and to stem the rising tide of delinquency by preventive measures.

1/ Charles L. Chute, Juvenile Delinquency in Wartime, p. 1.

CHAPTER II

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JUVENILE COURT MOVEMENT WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE JUVENILE COURT IN CONNECTICUT

Illinois in 1899 enacted a law under which the first special court for children was established in Chicago as a division of the Cook County Circuit Court. The new court was based on the concept that the child who broke the law was not to be regarded as a criminal but as a ward of the state and as such was to receive the care, custody and discipline which should have been given by his parents - a concept previously applied in law only to dependent and neglected children.

In the same year, Colorado adapted a school law containing some of the main features of juvenile court laws, from which developed its juvenile court law adopted in 1903. During the five years following 1899, juvenile court laws were passed in ten other states. None of these early Acts created separate courts but vested the jurisdiction over children in divisions of existing courts.

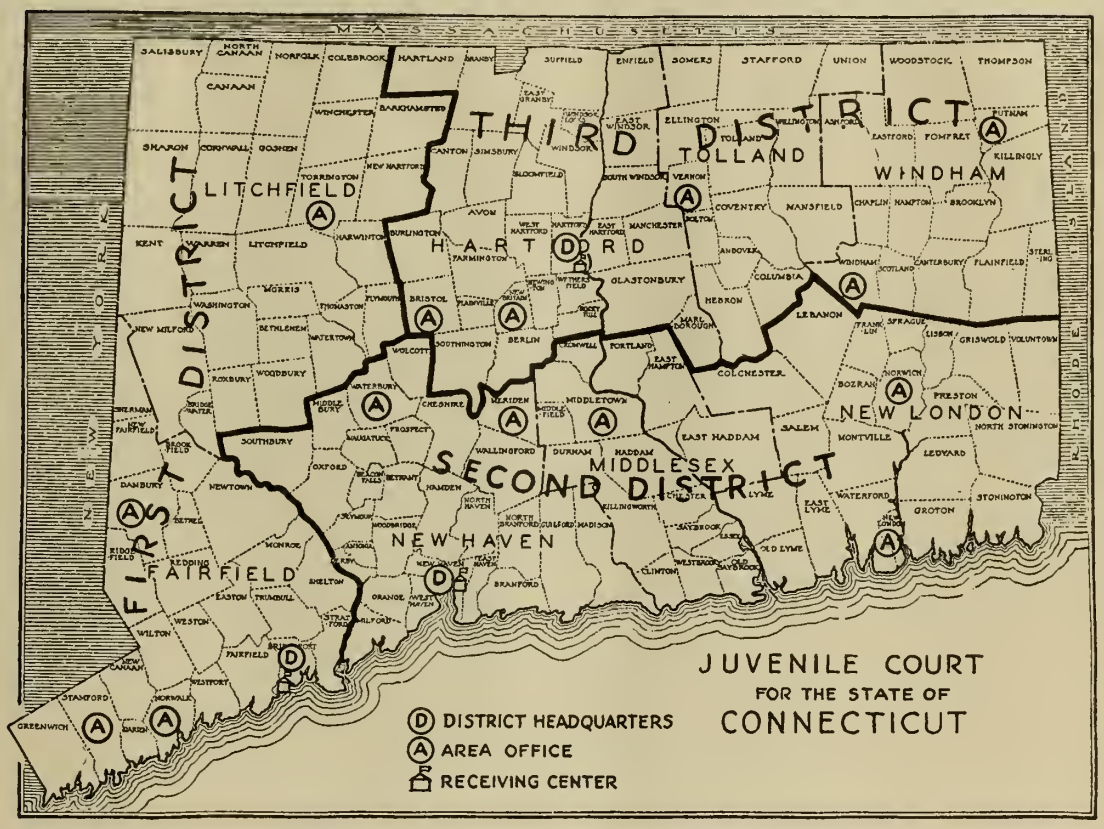
By 1942, forty-six states had either created separate courts for juvenile offenders or had provided specialized jurisdiction and procedure in these cases in courts already established. Maine and Wyoming have not made express provision for juvenile courts. Maine, however, gives the municipal courts exclusive jurisdiction in most cases of children under seventeen years of age, with certain provisions for special procedure, and Wyoming defines delinquency, dependency and neglect with provision for

commitment to children's institutions.[1/]

Connecticut was one of the most recent states to take such action. Prior to the creation of a state-wide organization, there were two county juvenile courts. These courts, under the jurisdiction of the state, were experimental in nature. One was located in Windham County, a rural area; the other in Fairfield, an industrial county. They were in operation from 1935 until 1942, at which time they were legislated out of existence. In other parts of the state, juvenile cases were referred to local town, city, borough or police courts and were handled by the local authorities.

In accordance with legislation of the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, the juvenile court was organized as a branch of the State Judicial Department. This court started to function on a state-wide basis on January 1, 1942. It has legal jurisdiction over all proceedings concerning uncared-for, neglected, dependent and delinquent children, except in matters of guardianship, adoption and all such other matters affecting the property rights of any child, over which the Probate Court has jurisdiction.[2/] For the purpose of this study, only the function of the court relating to juvenile delinquency will be discussed. As indicated by the Map on page 5, the state has been divided into three Districts, the First, the Second and the Third. In making this division, case loads of preceding years and general population figures were considered. At the end of 1942, examination of the case loads disposed of during the year showed a well equalized distribution of work.[3/]

1/ Francis H. Hiller, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts, p. 257.
2/ Connecticut General Statutes, Section, 280f.
3/ Fred D. Faulkner and others, Juvenile Court for the State of Connecticut, p. 1.


JUVENILE COURT
FOR THE STATE OF
CONNECTICUT
D DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
A AREA OFFICE
RECEIVING CENTER
FIRST DISTRICT
SECOND DISTRICT
THIRD DISTRICT
LITCHFIELD
HARTFORD
TOLLAND
WINDHAM
NEW HAVEN
MIDDLESEX
NEW LONDON
FAIRFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS
NEW YORK
RHODE ISLAND

The First District includes Fairfield and Litchfield Counties. The main office of this district is located at Bridgeport and the area offices are in Norwalk, Stamford, Danbury and Torrington. The Second District embraces Middlesex, New Haven and New London Counties. The main office is located at New Haven and the area offices are in Waterbury, Meriden, New London, Middletown and Norwich. The Third District includes Tolland and Windham Counties. The main office of this district is at Hartford and the area offices are in Vernon, Bristol, New Britain, Putnam and Windham.

There are fourteen area offices, which have been provided to bring the court to the people as occasion arises. Certain days are set aside for official court hearings within a certain area. No matter how small the community or how remote, the judge and probation officer go to that community for the official court hearing, which is held, in so far as possible, in pleasant and informal surroundings without the usual court atmosphere.

Over each district presides a judge appointed by the Governor. These appointments are subject to confirmation by both Houses of the General Assembly in the same manner as judges of the Superior Court. At the time of original appointment, the terms of the three district judges were for staggered terms of two, four and six years, with the provision that subsequent appointments be made for a term of six years. It is required by statute that each judge must be an attorney at law, must devote full time to his duties as judge and must live within the district which he is to serve. 1/

1/ Connecticut General Statutes, Section, 281f.

Early during their term of office, the three judges made a tour of the state and private institutions to which they commit children, so that they might know at first hand just what those institutions were doing and what kind of program they had developed.[1/]

Each judge is empowered to select a Director of Probation for his district and such other probation officers and clerical staff as he shall deem necessary from a list of persons certified by the State Personnel Department after a competitive examination. Provision was made for continuing in employment without examination all full time probation officers in service on January 1, 1941.

In the beginning of the year, training courses, in which experts in the social work and psychiatric fields participated, were established at Yale University. For the purpose of integrating the work and arriving at uniform procedures, joint staff meetings were arranged with the State Division of Child Welfare. Through the cooperation of the State Bureau of Mental Hygiene, The Connecticut Society for Mental Hygiene and its affiliates and other clinics and physicians, a network of psychiatric service was laid.[2/]

Because the organization of the State Juvenile Court in Connecticut has coincided with our entrance into World War II, a study of the functioning of the Court as a new agency in the community seems particularly pertinent at this time. An increase in delinquency has been antici-

1/ Max Spelke, Is the State of Connecticut Meeting its Responsibilities? p. 5.

2/ Fred D. Faulkner and others, Juvenile Court for the State of Connecticut, Introduction.

pated in some parts of the state more than in others. One of these areas is the town of New London which is in New London County. Other towns included in this county, as shown by the map on page 9, are Bozrah, Colchester, East Lyme, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Lyme, Montville, North Stonington, Norwich, Old Lyme, Preston, Salem, Sprague, Stonington, Voluntown and Waterford. This county has been chosen for study because it is predominately a rural area, because of the influx of population to defense industries, and a marked concentration of naval personnel in some parts of the county, and because of the writer's familiarity with this section. To examine the functioning of the Juvenile Court in this community all the official cases of boys known to the Court during the second half of the year 1942 were studied.

The purpose of this study is to try to answer in some measure the following questions:

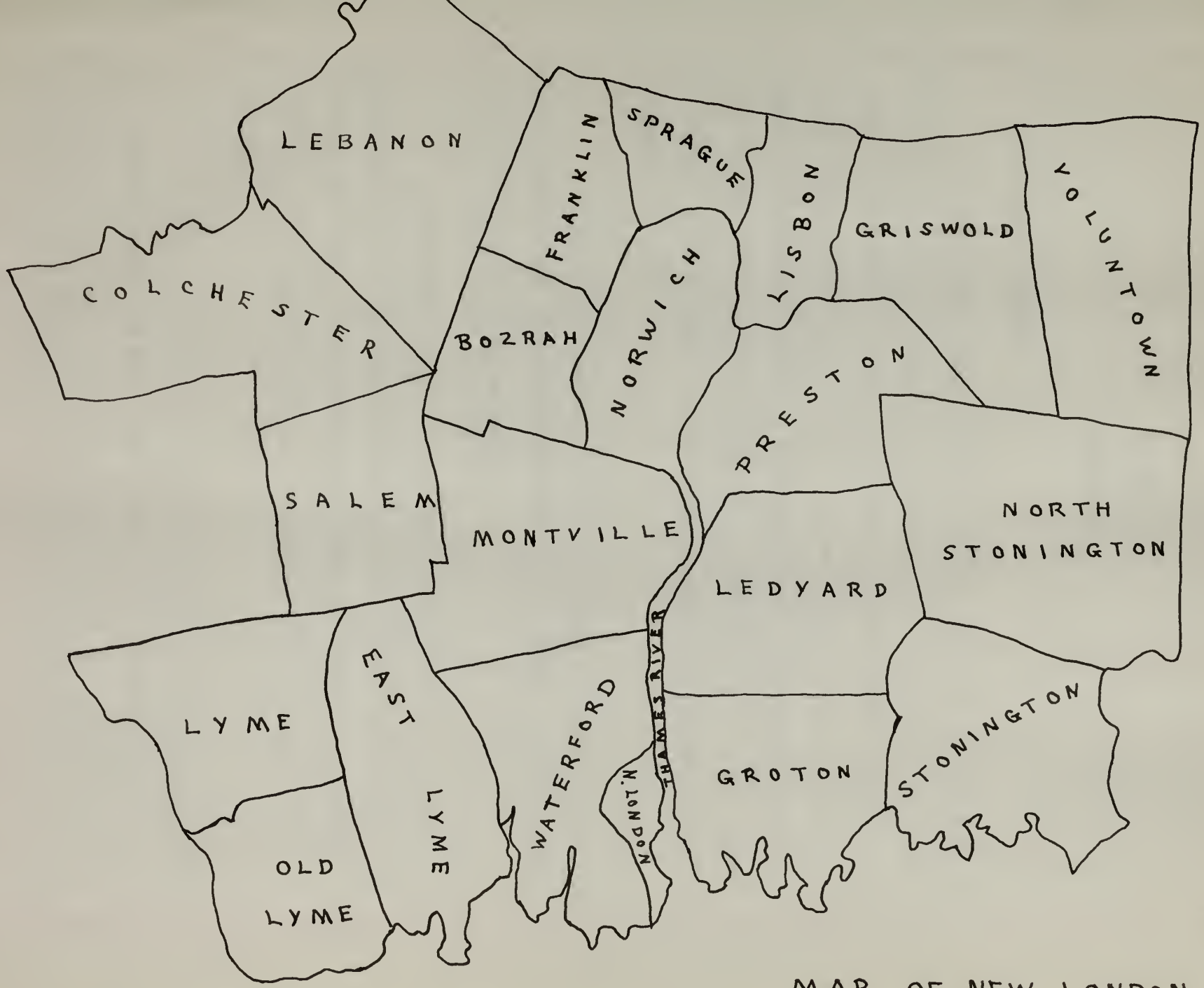
1 - What is the picture presented as to residence, offenses, previous court records, sources of referral and disposition of cases?

2 - What are the characteristics of the boys studied, such as age, school achievement and religious affiliation?

3 - What is their family background, with reference to marital, citizenship and economic status?

4 - Is there any available evidence as to whether or not there has been an increase in delinquency in this area?

5 - What is some of the community thinking relative to the problem of delinquency and its prevention, with particular reference to the functioning of the Juvenile Court?



MAP OF NEW LONDON COUNTY

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

Selection of Sample

A six-months period, from the first year of the existence of the Juvenile Court as a new agency in the community, was selected for this study. The second half of the year, July 1 to December 31, 1942, was chosen because the first half of the year was largely devoted to administrative details common to any new organization, to the transference of cases from the local authorities and to the establishing of a working relationship with the social and law-enforcing agencies, the schools and churches.

Boys' cases from this period were chosen for study because they presented a greater variety of problems than the girls; who were primarily known to the court for sex offenses.

The official cases of boys were selected for this study. All juvenile court cases are classified as either official or unofficial. An official case is any case which appears before the court for a hearing. An unofficial case is any case which is not taken before the court for a hearing.

All offenses such as sex, breaking and entering, serious theft and property damage, and most cases of truancy are handled officially. Although records are kept on all unofficial cases, detailed social information is not recorded in these cases. During the second half of the year

1942, there were fifty-seven official boys' cases known to the court.

Because educators, social workers, police and clergy have close contact with the Juvenile Court, fifteen men and women representative of these groups were seen. They were asked the following questions:

1 - What do you think about the problem of juvenile delinquency in this county?

2 - How do you think the Juvenile Court, as a new agency in the community, is helping or not helping with this problem?

3 - What preventive measures can be taken to decrease delinquency in this county?

Gathering of Data

After becoming familiar with the records of official cases kept by the court, the writer devised a schedule. As will be seen from the copy of the schedule in the Appendix, an attempt was made to secure detailed information about these boys. Some of the material gathered did not lend itself to statistical analysis, while other facts were either unavailable in many cases or did not appear to make a material contribution. Usable data was secured regarding residence at time of referral, reason and source of referral, disposition and characteristics of the boys including their age, grade placement, religious affiliation and family background. This material was tabulated from the schedules. Some information, such as recreational interests and mental ability, was not universally available but will be discussed in the body of the thesis. As stated previously, fifteen men and women were interviewed and an attempt was made to record their thinking.

CHAPTER IV

THE FUNCTION OF THE JUVENILE COURT AND THE ROLE OF THE PROBATION OFFICER AND THE JUDGE

The Juvenile Court is a combination of a social agency and a law-enforcing body. Its purpose is to rehabilitate the delinquent and to protect society. Although the emphasis, since the inception of the juvenile court movement in 1899, has been placed on the treatment of the delinquent rather than on his punishment, this concept has not yet been fully accepted by the general public.

There are two main reasons for this failure to gain full acceptance. The first is the idea that the court is an authoritative means of forcing the child to conform to socially accepted behavior, while an entirely different idea is that the court is prejudicial to the welfare of the child. Those who hold to the first concept become impatient with the court because it has not taken drastic action, and with the delinquent because he has not shown immediate improvement. Those who hold to the second concept refrain from seeking court action until the point at which the court can be most helpful has been passed. Because of this lack of understanding of the purpose of the juvenile court, the function of the court needs to be clarified in the minds of both lay and professional people in the community for the best interests of the child.

This study is particularly concerned with the functioning of the Juvenile Court and the role of the Judge and Probation Officer in New

London County. There are many definitions of the term "delinquent," but in this study the concept as defined by statute will be used. The Connecticut Statute reads,

> "The delinquent child shall mean a child, who (a) violated any law of the state or local ordinance or (b) is habitually truant, incorrigible or knowingly or willfully associated with vicious criminals or immoral persons or (c) uses vile, indecent or profane language or is guilty of indecent or immoral conduct or (d) is growing up in idleness, ignorance or vice or (e) absents himself from home without just cause or the consent of his parents or wanders about at nighttime without any lawful purpose or occupation or (f) knowingly and willingly engages in any practice, employment or occupation prejudicial to his normal development, physically, mentally or morally." 1/

According to the Connecticut Statute, "A 'child' shall mean any person under sixteen years of age and any person between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years who has been transferred from the jurisdiction of a Town, City, Police or Borough Court to the jurisdiction of any Juvenile Court." 2/

A child may be referred to the court by filing a written petition giving his name, address and reason for referral. This referral may be made by his parents, guardian, public officials, Humane Society, Commissioner of Welfare and others.

Following the referral, the Probation Officer makes an investigation pertaining to the boy's characteristics, such as age, grade placement, religious affiliation, family background and other information pertinent to the study of the individual to throw some light on why he has become delinquent. While a boy is not referred routinely for a psychometric examination and psychiatric interview, he is referred if there is any indication that such a

1/ Connecticut General Statutes, Section 1854 as amended by Section 692c.
2/ Ibid.

study is needed for diagnosis and treatment. An effort is made to secure his health history and a report of his present physical condition from his family, school and any interested agency. Because of the expense involved, a thorough physical examination is not routinely made. Usually, only boys referred for sex offenses are given a physical examination.

Each boy is given an opportunity to tell his side of the story. The Probation Officer encourages him to talk about his interests, ambitions, friends, school and family, as well as about his immediate difficulties.

Sheldon Glueck emphasizes the importance of understanding an individual's ideas -

> "What's his head filled with? If you start him off on a little verbalized ideational trip, to which one or two landmarks of subject matter does he usually return -- some particular ambition, or his personal appearance, or his athletic prowess, or women, or 'ganging' or some other system of ideas? 'Ideas', we have been vividly reminded , 'are weapons'. Whole peoples have been hypnotized, betrayed and enslaved through the systematic pumping into their heads of ideologies of the most absurd kind. Ideas are dynamic. By analyzing the offender's conversation with you, you will begin to get at the things with which your client is typically preoccupied. By setting down this person's most beloved ideas, you not only gain insight into what he is like, but obtain clues to changing him by exposure to more desirable ideas." 1/

The establishment of a good relationship between the boy and the Probation Officer is important in discovering causes of his anti-social behavior and in planning treatment. The findings of the investigation of the Probation Officer are considered clinical in their nature. This approach to the study of delinquency began in 1909 under William Healey in the Juvenile Court in Chicago. From his studies, he sees the delinquent as an

1/ Sheldon Glueck, Crime Causation, pp. 104-105.

emotionally maladjusted individual whose delinquencies are an attempt to compensate for his emotional deprivations and frustrations. Delinquency is usually manifested by such symptoms as lying, stealing, truancy, stubbornness, running away, sex offenses and destructive acts.

After the Probation Officer completes his investigation, he decides whether or not the boy should appear for a court hearing. If such action is not thought necessary, the case is considered unofficial. If the boy is to appear in court, a summons must be served by the Probation Officer forty-eight hours before the court hearing.

Thursday is the day designated for official court hearings in New London County. As has been previously said, the hearing of each case is held in the community in which the individual resides. Although this necessitates considerable travel on the part of the Judge and Probation Officer, they thus render a greater service to the community than would otherwise be possible.

The Judge of the court occupies a unique position. As a judge, he deals directly with individuals in a judicial capacity and, as the administrative head of the agency, he directs through the Director of Probation the case-work staff that deals with individuals in a treatment capacity. There is no set procedure for the hearing. It is conducted privately in an informal and unhurried manner and the procedure is determined by the nature of the individual case. Each person, including the child, has equal opportunity at the hearing to present his side of the story. If it seems desirable for either the child or parent to talk with the Judge privately, such opportunity is provided. The Judge makes a careful explanation to the

boy as to why he has been brought to court and as to the purpose of the hearing. The Judge lays particular stress on the desire of the court to be helpful, rather than merely judgmental. At the close of the hearing, the Judge explains to the boy how the decision has been reached and why it is considered to be for his best interests. Provision is made by statute for appeal to a superior court if there is dissatisfaction with the decision.[1/] Sometimes the Judge is forced to make a difficult decision between treatment in an institution and treatment through a period of probation. As more resources are developed for the treatment of the child in the community, the Judge will have more alternatives from which to choose in making his decision. A boy is committed to the Connecticut School for Boys at Meridan when community resources are inadequate to meet the boy's needs and it is felt that he can benefit from a period of institutional care.

A boy may be placed on probation for a specific or an indefinite period of time. He is responsible on probation to the officer who made the original investigation. For this reason, it is important for the Probation Officer to have established a good relationship with the boy. The Probation Officer's job is a hard one and probably one of the most strategic in the Juvenile Court. John Augustus, The Father of Probation, was the first to develop essential methods of probation: investigation, selection of cases, interviewing, case work in the home, child placement, detention and cooperation with school, employers, institutions and social agencies.

The services of the court to children can be extended through research, through developing better techniques of treatment and through interpretation of the function of the court to the community.

1/ Connecticut General Statutes, Section 285f.

CHAPTER V

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Anti-social behavior is gradually becoming recognized as a problem to be solved by the use of knowledge rather than force. This shift in emphasis from the symptoms to the causes of delinquency has led to various studies of individual cases. For this reason, fifty-seven official boys' cases known to the Juvenile Court in New London County from July 1 to December 31, 1942 were studied for the purpose of obtaining a better understanding of the functioning of the Court in the community. These cases will be analyzed in accordance with the three questions proposed in Chapter II. Briefly, these questions pertain to the boys' residence, source of referral, offenses, previous offenses and disposition; their characteristics, such as age, grade placement and religious affiliation, and their family background.

After the analysis, four cases will be sumarized. For the purpose of clarity, in some instances boys will be referred to by name, the names, of course, being fictitious.

Residence

New London County includes the twenty-one towns of Bozrah, Colchester, East Lyme, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Lyme, Montville, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Old Lyme, Preston, Salem, Sprague, Stonington, Voluntown, and Waterford. This county is predominately a rural one having an area of 448,563 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres and at the time of

the 1940 United States Census a population of 125,224. According to the 1942 Connecticut State Register and Manual there was a total of 22,901 children between the ages of four and sixteen in the county.[1/] The area, population and number of children in each town is shown by the Table on page 19.

The two largest cities in this county are Norwich and New London. In one part of the county Norwich is the center for the neighboring towns, whereas, New London is the center for the towns in the other part of the county.

This section of the State has not been well organized socially. Prior to 1941, with the exception of the Diocesan Bureau, there were no social agencies to work with children and their families outside of New London and Norwich. In 1941 Child Welfare Services were extended to cover New London County, with the exception of Norwich. A worker was placed in New London because it was considered an area of special need.

The high schools are located in the towns of Norwich, New London, Stonington, Groton and Griswold. For this reason children in the other towns have to be transported to and from high school. There is only one Trade School, which is located in Norwich.

All the industries of this county, with the exception of the Electric Boat Company located in Groton, are small textile mills. Farming is another important occupation in this area.

Table II on Page 21 shows the towns from which the boys were

1/ Connecticut State Register and Manual 1942, pp. 173-302.

TABLE I

AREA AND POPULATION OF TOWNS IN NEW LONDON COUNTY

TOWN	AREA	POPULATION 1940	NUMBER OF CHILDREN *
Bozrah	12,357 acres	904	137
Colchester	30,014 $\frac{3}{4}$	2,338	401
East Lyme	23,515	3,338	572
Franklin	12,569	667	140
Griswold	26,659	5,343	1,011
Groton	22,331	10,910	2,400
Lebanon	33,800	1,467	275
Ledyard	25,952	1,426	324
Lisbon	10,996	1,131	233
Lyme	23,564	717	118
Montville	27,791	4,135	879
New London	3,452	30,456	5,431
North Stonington	36,316	1,236	251
Norwich	18,708	34,140	6,180
Old Lyme	16,893	1,702	297
Preston	20,325	4,206	281
Salem	18,597	504	83
Sprague	8,620	2,285	422
Stonington	25,222	11,002	1,990
Voluntown	25,640	723	92
Waterford	25,242	6,594	1,375
Total	448,563 $\frac{3}{4}$	125,224	22,901

*Number of children between the ages of four and sixteen as enumerated October 1, 1941.

living at the time of referral. It is of interest to note that there was a larger number of boys from Norwich than from New London, although it might be expected there would be more delinquency in New London because of the concentration of naval personnell there. However, because of the anticipated increase in delinquency it is possible that more preventative work may have been done there by Child Welfare Services.

Five of the boys included in the Norwich figures were under the supervision of the Norwich Branch Office of the State Division of Child Welfare, although it was not possible to determine in all cases whether they were actually living in Norwich at the time of referral. Usually boys referred by the Bureau are in the County Home located in Norwich. As would be expected, over one half of the fifty-seven boys or 68.4 % were from Norwich and New London, as compared with 18 boys, or 31.6 % from the neighboring towns. It is noticeable that the boys were referred from only eight towns; that is from fewer than one half of the twenty-one communities in New London County.

Sources of Referral

The sources of referral are shown on Table III on Page 22 As pointed up by this Table, forty-six boys, or 80.7 % of the total number, were referred to the Court by either the State or local police. From this fact it may be inferred that most of the delinquency occurs outside of school hours, which raises the question as to what opportunities are available for these boys to participate in wholesome recreactional activities during their leisure hours. This fact also raises the question as to what responsibility their parents are taking for their supervision.

TABLE II

RESIDENCE OF BOYS AT TIME OF REFERRAL TO THE JUVENILE COURT IN NEW LONDON COUNTY BETWEEN JULY 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 1942

Towns of Referral	Number of Boys	Per cent
New London	18	31.6
Norwich	21	36.8
Stonington	7	12.3
East Lyme	3	5.2
Colchester	2	3.5
Griswold	2	3.5
Groton	3	5.3
Waterford	1	1.8
Totals	57	100.0

It is surprising that so few boys were referred by the schools, which may indicate that the schools are either able to handle satisfactorily most of the problems presented in school or else that they have not sufficiently recognized that the Court is an agency for the treatment of problem boys before they become seriously delinquent. It would seem that the schools and the Court, through a growing understanding and appreciation of each organization by the other, would be able to establish a working relationship which would be for the best interests of the boys in the community. Of the five boys referred by the schools, four were referred for truancy and one for incorrigibility.

TABLE III

SOURCES FROM WHICH BOYS WERE REFERRED TO THE JUVENILE COURT IN NEW LONDON COUNTY BETWEEN JULY 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 1942

Source of Referrel	Number of Boys	Per cent
Police	46	80.7
School	5	8.7
Division of Child Welfare	3	5.2
Parent	1	1.8
Selectman	1	1.8
Town court	1	1.8
Totals	57	100.0

Three boys were referred by the Norwich Branch Office of the State Division of Child Welfare. Although as previously mentioned, five boys were under the care of this agency, two were referred by the police. It is possible that this agency has not fully recognized that the function of the Juvenile Court is to treat boys, rather than to punish them.

Of the three remaining cases, one each was referred by a parent, a Selectman and a Town Court. It is of interest to note that the parent referred his son to the Court for help in disciplining him. This case will be discussed in detail later.

Offenses

Table IV on Page 23 shows the offenses for which the boys were

TABLE IV

OFFENSES FOR WHICH BOYS WERE REFERRED TO THE JUVENILE COURT IN NEW LONDON COUNTY BETWEEN JULY 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 1942

Offenses	Number of Boys	Per cent
Theft	19	27.6
Breaking and entering	17	24.6
Property damage	10	14.5
Automobile theft	4	5.7
Operating a car without a license and owner's permission	2	2.9
Sex	6	8.8
Incorrigibility	6	8.8
Truancy	4	5.7
Discharge of firearm	1	1.4
Totals	69	100.0

referred. It will be noted that the number of offenses is sixty-nine because twelve of the boys were referred for two offenses. Of these twelve boys, six were referred for both breaking and entering and property damage, four for sex and theft, and two for breaking and entering and theft. As indicated by this Table, there was almost an even distribution of number of offenses between theft and breaking and entering. Considering that breaking and entering, theft, property damage, automobile theft and the operation of a car without the owner's permission are all offenses against property, by

far the largest number of offenses,fifty-two or 75.4 % of the total number, was included in this category. Seventeen offenses, or 24.6 % of the total, included sex, incorrigibility, truancy and discharging firearms endangering an individual.

It is of interest to note that only six boys were referred for sex offenses, three of these boys were fourteen and the other three were thirteen years of age. Jack, a fourteen year old boy, was in a special class for mentally retarded children. That he is probably an unstable individual is indicated by the fact that his I.Q. was variously reported ranging from 48 to 81 and that he had been hospitalized for an infected thumb resulting from biting his nails. George, fourteen, and Clifford and Ernest, each thirteen years old, all of normal intelligence, were involved with the same nine year old girl. It was indicated in the records that lack of supervised leisure time was partially responsible for the delinquency of these boys. William, fourteen and in the seventh grade, had overheard older boys discussing sexual relations and having an inquisitive turn of mind, was prompted by curiosity to experiment. His parents had not given him sex instruction because they did not know how to approach this subject. Fred, a thirteen year old boy, was found to have an I.Q. of 88, but the psychiatrist thought his delinquency was due more to inadequate supervision than to low mentality. It is perhaps significant that four of these boys lived in a town in which there was a definite lack of organized recreational facilities. In addition to the need for more supervised play, it is possible that proper sex instruction might have helped to prevent this form of delinquency.

As previously stated, four of the boys referred for sex were also

referred for theft. These four boys were Ernest, George, Fred and Clifford. They accompanied Joseph, aged fifteen, in stealing and selling gasoline ration coupons. Peter, a twelve year old boy, referred for theft, was also included in this group. The case summary of Joesph, the leader of the group, appears later. It is obvious that this offense is related to conditions caused by the war and that adults in the community, who purchased the stolen gasoline coupons, contributed to the delinquency of these boys.

As would be expected, the four boys referred for truancy disliked school. Three of these boys were fifteen and one was fourteen years old. John, with an I.Q. of 82 and in the fifth grade, was dismissed as not delinquent and his parents were reprimanded for failure to provide proper supervision. A petition of neglect was later filed in this case. Kenneth, with an I.Q. of 91, disliked school because of a speech defect. He said that he stuttered whenever called upon to recite in class. The truancy of Albert, who was of low normal intelligence, was probably the result of his unfortunate home conditions. This case will be discussed in detail later. Paul had an I.Q. of 71 and was in the seventh grade. As his mental age indicated insufficient ability to do school work beyond the fourth grade level, it is probable that overplacement in school was one of the causes of his truancy. Another contributing factor was his poor home environment. His parents and five of his six brothers had police records and apparently, there was no family unity or loyalty.

The offense of automobile theft was not as serious as it might appear. Four boys decided to go for a ride and borrowed a car from a garage parking lot. They explained that they had thought this would be all right as they knew the owner of the garage. However, they were apprehended before

they were able to return the car. Each boy apologized voluntarily to the owner of the car, who felt that the boys recognized the seriousness of their offense.

Previous Offenses

As has been stated above, cases of juvenile delinquency were handled by the local authorities prior to the establishment of a State Juvenile Court System. There is no record in the local courts of previous offenses for fifty, or 87.7 % of the fifty-seven boys. However, three of these fifty boys were first known to the Juvenile Court as unofficial cases. They were known officially to the Court for the same offense, namely truancy. In addition, one of these boys, had an unofficial record for theft. After unofficial measures failed it was felt that the more direct authoriative approach of a court hearing was necessary.

Of the seven boys or 12.3 % of the total number who had previous records in the local courts, the original referrals were as follows: one for truancy, two for theft, one for property damage, one for sex and two unknown. Three of these boys were known to the State Juvenile Court for the same offenses, which were truancy, theft and property damage. It is of interest to note that the boy referred for property damage had three records for the same offense, namely, breaking windows on railroad property. It was for this same offense that he was known to the Court during the period studied. One of the boys had two local court records for theft and was known to the State Juvenile Court for a sex offense.

Disposition of Cases

Table V on Page 27 shows the disposition of cases. As

TABLE V

DISPOSITION OF CASES OF BOYS REFERRED TO THE JUVENILE COURT IN NEW LONDON COUNTY BETWEEN JULY 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 1942

Disposition	Number of Boys	Per cent
Placed on probation	32	56.1
Dismissed with warning	19	33.3
Committed to Connecticut School for Boys	5	8.8
Dismissed as not delinquent	1	1.8
Totals	57	100.0

indicated by this Table, the largest number of boys, thirty-two or 56.1 % of the total, was placed on probation. The length of the probationary period varied from thirty days to an indefinite period of time. One boy was placed on probation for thirty days pending his moving out of the state. One boy was given a suspended sentence to the Connecticut School for Boys, and one was placed on probation under the supervision of the social worker who referred him from the Division of Child Welfare. Of the remaining twenty-nine cases, thirteen boys were placed on probation for an indefinite period, four for one year, twelve for six months and one for three months.

As shown by this Table, a large group of boys, nineteen or 33.3 % of the total, was dismissed with a warning. It is possible that some of these cases would have been treated unofficially, had not the Court been a

new agency in the community. It would be interesting to make a study at some future time to determine whether or not any recidivism is found in this group. Two of these boys made restitution for the property they damaged. It would seem that if more boys were required to make restitution for property damage, there might be fewer offenses of this nature.

Five boys, or 8.8 % of the total, were committed to the Connecticut School for Boys after a thorough investigation. Three of these boys, aged sixteen, fifteen and fourteen, had been under the care of the State Division of Child Welfare. In cases known to this agency, the probation officer does not make a duplicate investigation, but instead, the records were transferred to the Court. The other two boys committed were both fifteen years old. One boy needed intensive study and treatment. The other boy needed good physical care and study and treatment of his emotional conflicts. Physically he was suffering from chronic mastoiditis and had a speech impediment.

Age

Table VI on Page 29 shows the age of the boys at time of referral. As indicated, the boys ranged in age from nine to seventeen years. The Juvenile Court limits for official cases is between the ages of nine and eighteen years. The two extremes were represented by one boy each, whereas most of the boys fell within the age range of eleven to sixteen. The greatest concentration was in the fifteen year group, in which there were sixteen boys or 28.0 % of the total number. Connecticut requires school attendance until age sixteen. It is possible that delinquency was high for this group because they were not old enough to be

TABLE VI

AGE OF BOYS AT TIME OF REFERRAL TO THE JUVENILE COURT IN NEW LONDON COUNTY BETWEEN JULY 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 1942

Age in Years	Number of Boys	Per cent
17	1	1.8
16	6	10.5
15	16	28.0
14	12	21.0
13	5	8.8
12	8	14.0
11	5	8.8
10	3	5.3
9	1	1.8
Totals	57	100.0

employed, nor were they old enough to be in the Armed Forces. The small number of sixteen year old boys referred may indicate that many in this age group were employed either full or part time. It is apparent that there were nearly twice as many boys in the fourteen, fifteen and sixteen age groups, of which there were thirty-four or 59.5 % of the total number referred, as there were in the eleven, twelve and thirteen age groups, which contained eighteen boys or 31.6 % of the total.

Grade Placement

Because the greatest concentration of boys was in the fourteen, fifteen and sixteen age groups, it is of interest to note the

grade placement of these boys, which is shown by Table VII on Page 31. Accepting six years as the usual age for starting school, it is noticeable that eighteen of the thirty-four boys in these age groups were not up to normal grade, two of the thirty-four were not in school and the grade placement of three was unknown. In contrast to the older boys, among whom there appeared to be considerable retardation, it is noteworthy that the twenty-two boys under fourteen were almost without exception up to normal grade. Two of these boys were known to be retarded and in two cases grade placement was not recorded.

It has been recognized by educators that the school program is not adequately meeting the needs of adolescent boys, particularly those who are not academically minded. There is insufficient data to determine the attitude of these boys towards school, but it appears probable that their school retardation may be a contributing factor in their delinquency.

Although the records indicate considerable chronological retardation, the lack of a routine psychometric examination makes it impossible to make any statement regarding mental retardation. Only twenty-two of the fifty-seven boys had had a psychometric examination. Of these boys, about half were examined after referral and the others had been previously examined by another agency. The twenty-two psychometric examinations available showed that one boy had an I.Q. which was variously reported, having a range from 48 to 81, three boys had I.Q.'s in the 60's, three in the 70's, two in the 80's and thirteen were of normal intelligence, with I.Q.'s ranging from 91 to 101. Following the period under study, the Bureau of Mental Hygiene made plans to extend its services by increasing its staff. Thus the court will have additional resources for diagnosis

TABLE VII

GRADE PLACEMENT AS COMPARED WITH AGE OF BOYS REFERRED TO THE JUVENILE COURT IN NEW LONDON COUNTY BETWEEN JULY 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 1942

Age	Special class	School Grades										Not in school	Un-known	Totals
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
17									1					1
16	1						2				1	2		6
15	2				3	1	4	2	2	1			1	16
14	1			1		3	2	3					2	12
13					1	2	1						1	5
12					2	4		1					1	8
11		1		3	1									5
10			2		1									3
9		1												1
Totals	4	2	2	4	8	10	9	6	3	1	1	2	5	57

and treatment.

Religious affiliation and Church Attendance

The religious affiliation and church attendance of the boys are shown in Table VIII on Page 33. As pointed up by this Table, the boys were about evenly divided between the Protestant and Roman Catholic faiths. There was one boy each belonging to the Jewish, the Greek Catholic and Polish Independent Churches. Although the larger number reported regular attendance, the considerable number whose attendance was unknown makes impossible any definite statement regarding church attendance.

Recreation, Physical Condition and Employment

The court records contained information pertaining to the recreational interests, physical condition and employment of the boys. This material did not lend itself to tabulation, but certain facts were noticeable.

An effort was made at the time of investigation to determine each boy's recreational interests. The predominating interests,as found by counting the number of times each was recorded, were movies, swimming and football. A variety of other interests was recorded. Among these were reading comic books, boxing, fishing, skating and listening to the radio. In general, the boys who reported interests had several, while others apparently had none. Only four of the boys belonged to the Boy Scouts and only two held membership in the Young Men's Christian Association. The total picture presented a lack of organized recreational activities and supervised leisure time. The large number of adolescent boys referred to

TABLE VIII

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION AND CHURCH ATTENDANCE OF BOYS REFERRED TO THE JUVENILE COURT IN NEW LONDON COUNTY BETWEEN JULY 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 1942

Attendance	Roman Catholic	Protestant	Greek Catholic	Jewish	Polish Independent	Unknown	Totals
Regular	13	6	-	1	1	-	21
Irregular	4	8	-	-	-	-	12
Non-attendance	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Unknown	10	7	-	-	-	5	22
Totals	27	22	1	1	1	5	57

the Court would indicate a special need for such activities.

As previously stated, the boys were not given routine physical examinations. A boy's developmental history and the report of his current physical condition was secured from his parents, school or agency. The physical condition of eleven boys was not recorded. Twenty-six boys were reported as apparently being in good physical condition. Twenty boys were found to have some physical defect, such as a speech impediment, partial deafness or poor eyesight. One boy had to wear an orthopedic shoe for the correction of a clubfoot. In one case there appeared to be a possibility that a boy had sustained a brain injury in the past. This data would seem

to indicate the importance of giving physical examinations and medical treatment, because it is recognized that a physical handicap may be a contributing factor in delinquency.

It is of interest to note that thirty-six of the fifty-seven boys were earning their own spending money and, in some cases, were buying at least a part of their own clothing. They were found to be doing many different types of work. Among the jobs listed were helping on farms, operating paper routes, working in restaurants, shining shoes, running errands, mowing lawns and setting up pins in a bowling alley. One enterprising boy started a bicycle repair shop in the basement of his home, but was, unfortunately, obliged to give up this business because he was not old enough to secure a license and a complaint was made by a local repairman. While many jobs were available because of war conditions, there was a temptation for boys to falsify their ages in order to obtain employment or to accept undesirable night work. It is known that two of the boys misrepresented their ages and were staying out of school to work.

In addition to the thirty-six boys who were in school and employed part time, two sixteen year old boys were out of school and employed. There was no record of employment in nineteen cases, which may probably be attributed partly to their youth.

Marital Status of Parents

Before the discussion of the Tables pertaining to the family backgrounds of the boys, it must be mentioned that although fifty-seven cases were used in this study actually only fifty-three families were involved, for one family was represented by three boys and two families by

two boys each. However, for the sake of clarity and convenience, the data will be analyzed on the basis of fifty-seven cases.

Table IX on Page 36 shows the marital status of the parents. As indicated, twenty-nine boys or 50.9 % of the total number, were living with both own parents. In two of these cases, there was evidence of marital difficulty. Twenty boys were from homes broken by the separation or divorce of the parents in twelve cases, by the death of the father in six cases and by the death of the mother in two cases. The five boys who were under the care of the State Division of Child Welfare had been taken from their homes because of neglect. Considering these five boys as coming from broken homes, twenty-five boys or 43.9 % were from broken homes.

In the three cases in which the marital status was unknown, actually the boys were brothers. Of the other two sets of brothers, two were under the care of the State Division of Child Welfare and two had divorced parents.

Five of the divorced mothers and one widowed mother had remarried, but one of these women had been deserted by her second husband. The relationship between two boys and their step-fathers was apparently good, in two others cases it was poor, and in one case unknown. In two cases the mother and step-father were reported as having marital difficulty.

In all cases but one, the boys whose parents were either divorced or separated lived with their mothers. In one case the boy was deserted by his mother and it was not known with whom he subsequently lived, as he was employed at the time of referral. Two mothers were deceased. One died at the birth of the boy who was brought up by relatives and the other mother

TABLE IX

MARITAL STATUS OF PARENTS OF BOYS REFERRED TO THE JUVENILE COURT IN NEW LONDON COUNTY BETWEEN JULY 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 1942

Marital Status	Number of Families	Per cent
Parents living together	29	50.9
Parents separated or divorced	12	21.1
Father deceased	6	10.5
Mother deceased	2	3.5
Parents deprived of custody of children by Court	5	8.8
Unknown	3	5.2
Totals	57	100.0

died when her son was fifteen. Apparently, this boy continued to live with his father.

Birthplace and Citizenship Status of Parents

Table X on Page 37 shows whether the parents were native or foreign born and their citizenship status. Seventy-three or 64.0 % of the 114 parents involved were native born. Twenty-nine parents or 25.5 % were foreign born and came from the following countries: Netherlands, Scotland, Poland, Russia, Italy, Newfoundland and Canada. Four parents were American born negroes. The birthplace of twelve parents or 10.5% was unknown. Eighty parents or 70.2 % of the total were citizens of the United States. Fourteen or 12.2 % were aliens and the citizenship status of twenty or 17.6 % was unknown. There was a reasonably even distribution

TABLE X

BIRTH AND CITIZENSHIP STATUS OF PARENTS OF BOYS REFERRED TO THE JUVENILE COURT IN NEW LONDON COUNTY BETWEEN JULY 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 1942

Parents	Place of Birth			Citizenship		
	Native Born	Foreign Born	Unknown	U.S.Citizen	Alien	Un-known
Father	37	13	7	42	6	9
Mother	36	16	5	38	8	11
Totals	73	29	12	80	14	20

between the sexes as to place of birth and citizenship. All fifty-seven boys were native born.

Sources of Chief Support

Table XI on Page 38 shows the sources of chief support in the families of the fifty-seven boys referred to the Court. Thirty-two families were supported by the father or step-father who lived with the mother and children in the home. Thus it is evident that 56.2 % of the homes represented were apparently normal family units, although in four of these homes there was a step-father. The fathers were employed, as might be expected, in a variety of occupations. Some of these were as follows: mechanic driver, dock foreman, tavern proprietor, civil service engineer, store clerk, steam fitter, painter, shovel operator and owner of grocery

TABLE XI

SOURCE OF CHIEF SUPPORT IN FAMILIES OF BOYS REFERRED TO THE JUVENILE COURT IN NEW LONDON COUNTY BETWEEN JULY 1 AND DECEMBER 31, 1942

Source of Support	Number of Families	Per cent
Father or step-father employed and in home	32*	56.1
Mother (no father in home)	5**	8.8
Father (no mother in home)	2	3.5
Boy self-supporting	1	1.8
Division of Child Welfare	5	8.8
Other children	2**	3.5
Aid to Dependent Children	2	3.5
Relatives	2	3.5
Public Welfare	2	3.5
Unknown	4	7.0
Totals	57	100.0

* Six mothers also employed
** One mother employed irregularly

store. Wages were recorded in only a few cases, but those given appeared to be adequate. It is probable that some of the fathers were receiving higher than their usual wages during the period studied because of war conditions.

In six families, both parents were employed. However, one of

the six mothers gave up her work to stay home and supervise her son more closely after she learned of his delinquency. In five families in which there were no fathers, the mothers were employed. Of the remaining eight families with no fathers in the home, the mother and children were supported in two cases each by Aid to Dependent Children, Public Welfare, relatives and other children. In view of the present emphasis that working mothers are a contributing factor in delinquency, it is of particular interest to note that thirty-three or 57.9 % of the mothers were not employed out of the home. In addition, two other mothers were home part of the time, as both were employed irregularly as practical nurses. However, it must be borne in mind that these figures are for the latter half of the year 1942, when probably fewer women in this area were entering industry than at the present time.

In the two cases in which the mother was not in the home, both fathers were employed. In so far as can be determined from the record, one of these fathers was supporting his son. In the other case, the boy was living with relatives and it was not clear as to whether or not his father was contributing to his support. One boy was self-supporting.

It is not known whether the parents of any of the boys under the care of the Division of Child Welfare were under order to contribute to the boys' support. The four cases, in which the source of support is listed as unknown, actually represent only two families because three boys came from one family. In the other family, although the parents were living together, it is not known whether or not the father was providing support. However, a short time after the period studied, this boy was taken from his parents as uncared for and placed with the Division of

Child Welfare.

Case Summaries

In addition to the analysis of data, four cases will be presented to illustrate problems found in other cases known to the court.

Case 1.

> Claude, a husky sixteen year old boy, was referred for incorrigibility by his father who wanted assistance in discipling him. From the age of four months, Claude had suffered from asthma and chronic eczema and therefore, had been under medical care for most of his life. Because of ill health and because he was the only son and the youngest of three children, he had been spoiled and overprotected by his parents. The precipitating cause for this referral was Claude's wanting to sleep with his mother, because his father with whom he had slept since the age of five had started working nights.
>
> Claude was a withdrawn, immature boy, who spoke indistinctly and seemed to suffer from a feeling that people did not accept him because of his skin condition. This inhibited his participation in the normal social activities of his age group. Although enthusiastic about the High School sports program, he was barred from this because of his physical condition. With the exception of listening to band and orchestra music over the radio, he had few recreational interests. He attended church irregularly, which fact he attributed to laziness. He denied using his parents badly and was surprised to learn that his father had referred him.
>
> In 1941 Claude was referred to the State Bureau of Mental Hygiene by the school and was found to have an I.Q. of 92. In as much as he was a senior in high school and had an average of ninety during his freshman year and eighty during his sophomore and junior years, it would seem that he had done well in school, although he indicated that he was not particularly interested in his studies. Psychiatric treatment for Claude and case work with his parents were recommended, but his parents were not interested in this service. Both parents, who were foreign born, were of the Old World in their

viewpoint about the training of their son. In addition, they were reported as having marital difficulties. Claude's sister, who showed better judgment in her management of him than did his parents, was interested in securing help for him. He was placed on probation for six months.

Case 2

Joseph, a fifteen year old boy, was referred by the police for stealing and selling gasoline ration coupons. According to the police, he had been causing trouble for several years and they had been unsuccessful in their attempts to keep him out of difficulty. Because of making improper advances to girls, he was barred from two theaters in the community in which he lived. In 1941 he was on probation to the local juvenile court for theft.

Joseph was the third of four children of foreign born parents. When he was five, his father, who was reported as a heavy drinker, died of heart trouble. The boy had no close tie or affection for anyone and seemed to consider his home only as a place in which to eat and sleep. When not at the movies,he spent most of time on the street. The family were on relief and Joseph had to provide himself with spending money. This he did by doing odd jobs and selling junk. He had had little religious and moral training and rarely attended church. He was in the sixth grade, having repeated the third, fourth and fifth grades. The school did not consider him a problem and found him honest in delivering papers to the office, courteous to the teachers, and cheerful and willing to do what work he could. He was easily discouraged, but had a good sense of humor. The school felt that his home conditions were poor.

Joseph admitted his guilt with an air of bravado and said that he would not have been caught if the other boys involved had not told on him. According to the report of the psychiatrist, he pictured himself as courageously facing the hostile world. He was found to have an I.Q. of 74. Recommendation was made for remedial reading, vocational training and for constructive psychotherapy because of his great need for security. He was placed on probation for an indefinite period.

Following the period studied, Joseph was committed to the Connecticut School for Boys because community resources to meet his needs were not available.

Case 3.

Albert, a big, husky, fifteen year old boy, was referred by the school for truancy. Two months previously, Albert was known unofficially to the Court because of truancy. He was in the seventh grade, but disliked school and according to the school, had been a habitual truant. When interviewed, Albert was ill as ease, sullen, withdrawn, rebellious and appeared emotionally disturbed. He said that his father committed suicide when Albert was seven but he revealed no particular feeling about this. Four years later, his mother remarried. He resented this and ran away at the time. Albert was the oldest of four children, the youngest child being a half sibling.

Albert falsified his age to obtain employment. Following his discharge when his real age was discovered, he secured work on a farm. According to his mother, he had always rebelled against the conditions of semi-poverty in which the family lived and early sought odd jobs and after-school employment to earn money for himself. The home was in a very poor neighborhood near the railroad tracks. Albert's step-father disliked him and was willing only to provide him with food and a bed. The mother and step-father were reported to have marital difficulty. Albert attended church irregularly and apparently had little religious or moral training.

He was referred to the State Bureau of Mental Hygiene and found to have an I.Q. between 89 and 92, which placed him in the dull normal group. During the interview with the psychiatrist, he spoke freely of his various difficulties, saying that he disliked his step-father, who beat him, that he had been unhappy since his father's death and that he wanted to work and support his mother. Recommendation was made by the psychiatrist that Albert be returned to school without disciplinary action and that he be given training along mechanical lines. He was placed on

probation for an indefinite period, with the understanding that he would live with his maternal grandmother in another community.

Case 4.

Bruce was referred by the police for breaking and entering. He was twelve years old and had one older brother. His parents were American born and were well thought of in the community. They seemed happily married and the family feeling was good. In school, Bruce was mischievous, easily influenced and needed constant supervision. He was considered to have normal intellectual ability and to be capable of doing the work of the seventh grade in which he was placed. He was reported as making an effort to excel in whatever he undertook. Bruce had a speech defect, which was apparently the result of an operation for harelip and cleft palate. His teacher was helping him with his speech, and flute lessons were taken for the same difficulty. Bruce liked swimming and athletics and his ambition was to become a football player. He attended church regularly. The father owned a grocery store and the family was apparently in comfortable circumstances. He was concerned about Bruce's behavior, fearful of his having a record and resentful at having to appear in court. The mother was a very attractive, well-groomed woman, who was a graduate nurse. She apparently accepted the situation and thought that Bruce's appearance in court would make quite an impression on him and would definitely be for his welfare. She approved the probation officer's recommendation that Bruce attend a speech clinic. Because he had received adequate supervision from his parents and there seemed to be little likelihood of a recurrance of delinquent behavior, Bruce was dismissed with a warning.

The above cases help to point up the need for religious training, adjustment of the school curriculum, parent education, proper recreational facilities and greater availability of medical and psychiatric services.

The present emphasis on the problem of delinquency and its anticipated increase because of war conditions makes the fourth question

proposed in Chapter II of particular interest. This question has to do with whether or not there has been an increase in juvenile delinquency in New London County. Before attempting to answer this question, the situation in the State as a whole will be discussed. As previously mentioned, the comparison of court records is one of the best gauges for measuring the trend of delinquency, although it must be borne in mind that not all delinquents are referred to court.

Unfortunately, the statistics kept previously by the local courts and the new State Juvenile Court are not comparable, for the Second and Third Districts. The figures which are available, however, do show an increase in the number of children reported, particularly for unofficial offenses. This increase has been attributed partly to war conditions and partly to the fact that more cities and towns have referred cases to the Juvenile Court than to its predecessors. Ninety city and town courts, acting as juvenile courts, reported cases in 1941, whereas 144 communities reported cases in 1942. A definite trend upward was noted in the cities of Hartford, New Britain and New London and in other crowded areas.[1/] Another factor which makes the comparison of court figures unreliable is the lack of a reliable estimate of the probable population increase in these communities. An increase in delinquency was found in the First District, which was the only District to have kept records that were comparable for the years 1941 and 1942. This increase is indicated by the 327 official cases in 1942 and the 304 cases in 1941.

Figures of official boys' cases from the local courts in New

1/ Fred D. Faulkner & others, Juvenile Court for the State of Connecticut. p.3.

London County for the period July 1 to December 31, 1941, which is a parallel period to the one studied, were not available. For this reason, it is not possible to judge whether or not delinquency has increased among boys in this county, although as noted above, there has been an upward trend in the city of New London. Community opinion on this subject will be discussed in the following Chapter.

CHAPTER VI

COMMUNITY THINKING ON THE PROBLEM OF DELINQUENCY

Because of the present emphasis on delinquency as a community problem and because of the establishment of the State Juvenile Court as a new agency in the community to help meet this problem, fifteen individuals were interviewed for the purpose of getting some light on community thinking about delinquency in New London County. Their thinking will be presented in an attempt to answer the fifth question proposed in Chapter II. Briefly, this question refers to the problem of delinquency and its prevention with reference to the functioning of the Juvenile Court. It will be noted here that the individuals were seen a year after the end of the period chosen for study of official boys' cases. This gives perspective to the functioning of the Juvenile Court in the community. The opinions expressed will be discussed rather generally. It was felt that information would be obtained which would make this study of more value to the court, if the source of material was not revealed. For this reason, both men and women seen will be referred to by the use of the pronoun "he". For the sake of clarity, the material will be presented according to the three questions asked.

What do you think of the problem of delinquency in this area?

A difference of opinion was expressed as to whether or not delinquency had increased in this area. It was agreed, however, that the community was growing aware of the problem of delinquency and this recog-

nition was considered advantageous in getting community action on the problem. Several individuals were of the opinion that boys today were not any worse than they were twenty years ago, but that they were more frank and outgoing in their behavior. One person, judging from his experience, found that boys today take more interest in their studies. He reported a decrease in truancy in one of the schools. Although he did not know the reason for this, he realized that it may have been because many girls and boys are working now rather than remaining in school.

Because this county, particularly the city of New London, was considered an area of special need, more preventive work may have been done there. One agency extended its services in 1941 to provide an additional worker in New London. This worker found less indication of delinquency than expected. It was of interest to learn that officials from Washington, who have visited New London on several occasions, have expressed their surprise at finding conditions there better than they had anticipated. Of further interest, but not pertinent to this study, was the opinion that the apparent increase in delinquency and the resultant publicity was caused by girls coming to this city, rather than increased delinquency among the local girls. One individual felt that delinquency had not increased among boys, but boys' offenses were of a more serious nature than previously.

Those who thought that delinquency was on the increase emphasized that it was a problem of adult delinquency, rather than a juvenile one. One of the important causes of delinquency was considered to be the breakdown of the home and the irresponsibility of parents. In many cases, both parents are working, without making adequate provision for the care of their children. Some of these families are receiving high wages, which

they do not know how to spend wisely. Many boys are either employed and earning high wages or their parents are giving them large sums of spending money. In contrast to poor economic conditions, too much money is now considered a factor in delinquency. Because children usually follow the patterns of behavior set by their parents, they cannot be expected to have respect for law and authority if their parents show a disrespectful attitude towards law-enforcing egencies.

It has been rumored that boys have been encouraged by some employers to falsify their ages because of the shortage of workers. There is evidence that young boys are employed in bowling alleys late hours at night. Boys and girls under twenty-one have been frequenting taverns. Although in some cases the licenses of tavern keepers have been suspended for allowing minors in their establishments, this problem still persists.

One of the biggest problems in the school are the fourteen, fifteen and sixteen year old boys who prefer to work because they cannot satisfactorily meet school requirements. It was indicated that adults as parents, employers and educators have a responsibility for the welfare of the children in the community.

How is the Juvenile Court Helping or not Helping with this Problem?

The discussion of this question indicated some misunderstanding of the function of the Juvenile Court. Some individuals thought that when the State Court System was first established, there was considerable feeling in the community that the problem of delinquency could be handled better by the local authorities than by a court under State jurisdiction.

Although this feeling is still prevalent, particularly in the outlying districts, there is less evidence of it at the present time. In the beginning it was felt that the Court did not understand its own function in the community and for this reason did not know how to work with other agencies. The agencies, too, felt handicapped because they did not know how to use the Court. It is believed that the Court has made progress in becoming more generally accepted in the community, because it is establishing a better relationship with community resources and because it is better meeting its problems.

Other individuals expressed their disappointment with the manner in which the Juvenile Court was handling cases. Although at first they had welcomed the Court as a source of help with their problems, they now felt that the Court was not always working with them and sometimes looked down on their ability to be of service. Their chief criticism is the slowness of the Court in working with cases and in particular, not letting interested sources of referral know what is being done about a case. It was recognized that an investigation has to be made, but it is thought that too much time is spent on unnecessary details. It is further recognized that information about a boy should be kept confidential; however, the referring agency is often as much interested in the boy's welfare as is the Court and in some cases might be helpful in the study and treatment of the boy.

The suggestion was made that the Court could be more helpful to boys, their parents, schools, agencies and others if greater effort were made to tell them what the Court was trying to do. Although it is realized

that explanations take time and energy, it is thought that interpretation of the function of the Court would extend its services and would result in the increased acceptance of the Court in the community. It was believed that this could be accomplished, because the personnel in the Court are well accepted and because both lay and professional people in the community are interested in learning more about the work of the Court and the problem of delinquency. Two examples of the importance of interpreting the function of the Court were given. One individual had a better impression of the Juvenile Court after hearing a talk made by the Judge, whom he considered to be sympathetic and understanding of the needs of children. A group discussion of mutual problems was considered helpful in clearing up some of the misunderstandings.

There is evidence of some feeling that the purpose of the Court is to punish boys. The opinion was expressed that when all other measures have failed to change a boy's behavior, he needed to be punished. It was indicated by one individual that probation - just talking to boys - did not do any good. However, it was later admitted that probation had helped in some cases. In general, it was felt that delinquency was not a problem that could be solved by the Court alone, but that the schools, agencies, church, police and others must work together for the best interests of the children in the community.

<u>What do you think can be done in this Area to prevent delinquency?</u>

There was considerable interest shown in the discussion of this question. The suggestions given for preventing delinquency can be classified in four categories: namely, religious training, parent education,

recreational facilities and an educational curriculum to fit the needs of pupils.

It was believed that there is a great need for religious education. The schools have eliminated religious education from their program, although in some school systems provision has been made for children to be given religious training in their respective churches during a designated period each week. The suggestion was made that a similar plan in the school systems of this Area would help to reach more children than the church alone was able to do. Although the church is trying to reach people, it has failed to do so in many cases. There is a great need for a religious program to help people live better, because the majority of people probably want to do what is right and do not want to do what is wrong.

Irresponsible parents and the breakdown of the home are considered to blame for much of the delinquency. Some parents are trying to shift their responsibilities to the school, or possibly the schools are trying to assume too many parental responsibilities. Many parents are working without making any provision for the care and supervision of their children while they are at work. Other parents are more interested in themselves and either consciously or unconsciously reject their children. However, not all the blame can be placed on the parents, because not infrequently they themselves have come from poor homes and have received inadequate training. It was generally believed that parent education would help to prevent the breakdown of the home. The suggestion for a program of parent education was made at a meeting of one of the individuals interviewed. This suggestion received favorable comment. One individual expressed the need for a child-care center for children of working mothers.

In New London, provision has been made for children of nursery school age, but as yet no plans have been made for the supervision of older children. At the present time, many individuals are living under very crowded conditions because of the lack of adequate housing facilities. This fact was considered another contributing factor in delinquency.

A great deal of emphasis was placed on the need for recreational facilities throughout the county, because there are very few organized group activities in which boys can participate. However, the opinion was expressed that recreation alone was not the solution to the problem of delinquency. Recreational programs would help only insofar as they reached pre-delinquent boys. Several individuals thought that the Scouts and Young Men's Christian Association did not reach as many boys because of the cost involved in belonging to these organizations. One individual believed that the Scouts would now reach more boys in view of the recent indorsement of this organization by the Governors of New England. Recently, several recreational activities have been initiated in response to the growing recognition of the need for such programs. In Norwich, a group of Catholic men have organized a recreational center for boys. One of the Protestant churches has equipped a game room for young people. A night club has been started in the high school. In New London a Teen Canteen has been organized, but as yet a suitable place for meeting has not been located. An attractive, properly-conducted dancing hall was opened, but because it was located in what had once been a poor section of the city, this project failed. Suitable places for dancing are needed and if provided, might keep some of the young people out of taverns.

The philosophy of the schools during the past few years has been to let children express themselves. Because many of the teachers were trained in the old school of thought, they were not prepared to teach according to this philosophy. As a result, children have been given freedom which they have misused. Parents, too, have accepted the idea of freedom. Fortunately, at the present time, there is a tendency to swing back, with an effort to strike a balance between freedom and authority. It was thought that the schools should take more responsibility in training children to respect authority. It is believed that the present school curriculum does not adequately meet the needs of many boys, particularly those between the ages of fourteen and sixteen who are not academically minded. Additional vocational training should be provided in the school program. In some parts of the county, the boys are unable to attend trade school because of lack of transportation. One individual suggested that a child guidance program in the schools would probably help many boys to make a better adjustment, provided they were given an opportunity to discuss their problems without being censored.

Interview with the Judge

The Judge who presides over the Juvenile Court in the Second District of Connecticut, in which District New London County is located, discussed the problem of delinquency. He made four suggestions, which he thought might help decrease delinquency: less publicity for juvenile offenses; greater protection of children; more religious training; and a program of parent education.

The Judge said that delinquency is becoming glamorized and

commercialized. He cited an example of damage done in an old cemetery in Boston, which received publicity in the newspaper and over the radio. A few days later, practically identical damage was done in a historical cemetery in New Haven by boys who had been passing this cemetery all their lives. It should be realized that only about two per cent of the population in the country is delinquent, whereas, ninety-eight per cent is non-delinquent. This large group is not receiving any recognition for its good behavior through the medium of the press, radio and movies.

The Judge emphasized the need for greater protection of children. Many adults, if not actually encouraging delinquency, are certainly overlooking it for their own selfish ends. For example, there are boys under sixteen working in bowling alleys. When some action recently was taken to prevent this, owners of the alleys played up the need for recreation as a morale builder.

Of the boys and girls referred to the Court, many have no church affiliation. Those, however, who do indicate a preference, frequently do not attend church or else are irregular in attendance. The churches are apparently not reaching enough individuals before they get into difficulties but, rather, seem to offer help afterwards. It is of interest to note here that, because of the particular concern of the Judge about the large number of boys and girls not receiving any religious or moral training, a monthly report is now being compiled to show the religious affiliation and church attendance of all children referred to the Court.

The Judge thought that parent education is needed because many parents whose children are referred to the Court should be given guidance

and education in caring for and training their children. Although it might be difficult to reach many parents, the schools are probably best equipped to administer such a program.

Interview with the Senior Probation Officer

The Probation Officer is of the opinion that many delinquents are maladjusted boys. For this reason, he is particularly interested in securing all the psychiatric help possible for diagnosis and treatment. Since this county is a semi-rural one, it is not as well organized socially as some other areas in the State. Therefore,resources are frequently inadequate to meet the needs of the boys known to the Court. The public has to be educated to the fact that anti-social behavior is symptomatic of maladjustment and that a delinquent boy needs treatment rather than punishment.

In some cases, the local newspapers have publicized offenses. This is felt to have been detrimental to the reputation of the boy and to be a handicap in treatment. There is nothing in the law which prevents such publicity. Recently, newspaper accounts of this nature have been appearing less frequently.

At the present time, one of the greatest needs of the Court is a Detention Home. Provision was made by statute for the financing of such a home, but as yet a suitable place has not been located.

The Probation Officer feels that there is a need for more organized recreational facilities in the community. Some of the boys referred to the Court have been in difficulties because of a lack of supervised

leisure-time activities. However, he believes that recreation has been overrated as a solution to the problem of delinquency. Often, delinquent boys are either not reached by recreational programs or their personalities are such that they cannot participate in the activities offered.

On several occasions, the Probation Officer has spoken to community groups about the functioning of the Court and its relationship to other resources, with particular emphasis on delinquency as a community problem. As pointed out by the sampling of community thinking and by the Judge and Probation Officer, the problem of delinquency and its prevention is a community responsibility. In order to meet this responsibility, there must be renewed stress in this county on the home, the church and the school.

CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The problem of juvenile delinquency since our entrance into the war is constantly being brought to our attention by the press, by the radio and by the movies. According to the finding of the National Probation Association for the year 1942, as compared with the year 1940, delinquency has increased 16.1 % in the United States. However, this increase may be more apparent than real because of the growing recognition of the needs of children and the greater vigilence on the part of the police and other law enforcing agencies.

From the inception of the Juvenile court movement in 1899 until 1942, forty-six states have either created separate juvenile courts or have provided specialized jurisdiction and procedure for cases of juvenile delinquency in courts already established. Because the organization of the State Juvenile Court in Connecticut coincided with our entrance into World War II, a study of the functioning of this Court as a new agency in the community was considered pertinent at this time. Because New London County is predominately a rural area and because it was one of the sections of the state where an increase in delinquency was anticipated, this Area was chosen for study.

It was decided to study the fifty-seven official boys' cases known to the Juvenile Court in New London County during the second half of the year 1942. Five questions were proposed, which are as follows:

1 - What is the picture presented as to residence, offenses,

previous court records, sources of referral and disposition of cases?

2- What are the characteristics of the boys studied, such as age, school achievement and religious affiliation?

3 - What is their family background, with reference to marital, citizenship and economic status?

4 - Is there any available evidence as to whether or not there has been an increase in delinquency in this area?

5 - What is some of the community thinking relative to the problem of delinquency and its prevention, with particular reference to the functioning of the Juvenile Court?

Conclusions

Thirty-nine boys or 68.4 % of the total number were referred from the towns of Norwich and New London and eighteen or 31.6 % were referred from neighboring towns. Inasmuch as less than half the towns in the county made referrals, another study might be made to determine why there were no referrals from these communities. There was some indication from the community thinking that the Court was not as well accepted in some of the outlying districts as in the cities.

The predominating number or 80.7 % of the total referrals were made by the police. Comparison with the smaller number of referrals from the schools, agencies and other sources, may indicate that the Court was regarded as an agency to punish delinquent boys rather than to treat them. The figures showing the residence and source of referral of the fifty-seven boys may be an indication that more interpretation of the purpose of the

Court is needed.

The total number of offenses was sixty-nine, inasmuch as twelve boys were referred for two offenses each. Fifty-two or 75.4 % of the offenses were against property, in comparison with seventeen or 24.6 % of other offenses. The latter included sex, incorrigibility, truancy and discharge of firearms. In view of the preponderance of offenses against property, it would seem that training boys to respect the propert of others should be given in the home and in the school. A study of the sex offenses indicated a need for both sex instruction and adequate supervision of leisure-time activities. Contributing factors in school absenteeism were found to be low mental ability, poor home conditions and physical handicaps. The only offense which could be blamed directly on the war and resultant conditions was the stealing and selling of gasoline ration coupons. It was obvious that adults who purchased the stolen coupons contributed to the boys' delinquency. Elsewhere in the study it was found that in other cases there is a possibility that adults were a contributing factor in the delinquency of juveniles. Fifty or 87.7 % of the total number of boys had no previous official record whereas only seven boys or 12.3 % had had previous court records. This large number of boys never previously known to a court gives an encouraging picture.

Thirty-two or 56.1 % of the fifty-seven boys were placed on probation for varying periods of time, whereas nineteen or 33.3 % were dismissed with a warning and one was dismissed as not delinquent. Therefore, fifty-two or 91.2 % of the boys remained in the community. In order to prevent recidivism in this group, there is no need for recreation facili-

ties, religious training, adjustments in the school curriculum,parent education, medical care and in some cases, psychiatric treatment. Only five boys or 8.8 % were committed to an institution for delinquent boys. These boys were committed because they needed care and treatment which was not available in the community.

The boys ranged in age from nine to seventeen. The preponderance of boys were fifteen years of age. The war and resultant conditions may be factors in causing the concentration in this age group because they are both too young to be employed and to be in the Armed Forces. Accepting the chronological age of six years as the average age for starting school, it was found that eighteen of the twenty-nine boys in the fourteen, fifteen and sixteen year age groups in school were retarded in grade placement. Only two boys of the 18 under fourteen years of age were retarded for their chronological ages. The large number of older boys retarded in school would seem to indicate the need for an adjustment in the school curriculum in order that these boys might be assigned work within their ability. In several cases, the psychiatrist recommended training along mechanical lines and in a few cases, the correction of reading difficulties. Although already recognized by educators, the need for adjustment in the school curriculum should be continually emphasized. As the boys were not routinely referred for psychological study, it is impossible to draw any conclusion as to possible mental retardation. Of the twenty-two boys examined, thirteen were found to be of normal intelligence, while nine had I.Q.'s below 90. Inasmuch as the Bureau of Mental Hygiene has extended its services since the period under study, the Court will be able to avail itself of this resource for psychological study.

The boys were about equally divided between the Protestant and Roman Catholic faiths. Figures indicate that approximately two-thirds of the total group are irregular in church attendance. It may be possible for both the Protestant and Catholic churches to increase their efforts to reach a greater number of boys in the community.

The information about the recreational interests, physical condition and employment of the boys studied was not complete, but certain indications were apparent. The total picture of recreational interests showed a need for more organized recreation and supervised leisure time. In several cases, the lack of such facilities was considered a contributing factor in the delinquency of these boys. Inasmuch as twenty-two of the fifty-seven boys were found to have some physical defect, the need for routine physical examination and medical treatment would seem to be indicated. Thirty-six of the boys were earning spending money and in some cases, were contributing towards the cost of their clothing. Some of the boys showed initiative in securing work. Only two boys had misrepresented their ages to obtain employment, although it might be expected that this might be true in more instances.

There was almost an equal distribution between the boys who lived with both of their own parents and those not doing so. In eight cases the homes were broken by the death of one parent and in twelve cases by the separation of parents. Five boys were removed from the custody of their parents by the court and were under the care of the Division of Child Welfare. The figures would seem to indicate that broken homes were a contributing factor in the delinquency of some of the boys.

Of the 114 parents, 64.0 % were native born and 25.5 % were foreign born. Whether foreign or native born was unknown for 10.5 %. All the boys known to the Court were native born. As regards citizenship, it is interesting to note that 70.2 % were United States citizens and 12.2 % were non-citizens. The citizenship status of 17.6 % was unknown.

Thirty-two families or 56.2 % were supported by the father or step-father living in the home with the mother and children. Four step-fathers were included in this group. Inasmuch as the employment of mothers has been considered a contributing factor in delinquency, it was of interest to find that 57.9 % of the mothers were not employed out of the home. In only six families were both parents employed and one of these mothers gave up her employment when she learned of her son's delinquency.

A sampling of community thinking has pointed out that whether or not delinquency has increased in this county, the public is becoming more aware of this problem. This understanding was considered hopeful in view of the increasing problem of delinquency. The preventive measures suggested by community leaders were religious training, parent education, additional recreational facilities and an adjustment in the school curriculum. It was believed that although the Court was gaining acceptance in the community, nevertheless, its services could be extended if more interpretation of the function of the Court were given to both lay and professional groups. The opinion of the group consulted was that delinquency was a community problem and that every agency should share in the responsibility for its prevention.

Recommendations

1 - Because of the importance of good physical health to an individual and incidentally to the community, it is recommended that all boys who are found to have any indication of a physical defect be given a thorough physical examination and receive the indicated follow-up medical care.

2 - It is suggested that the clergy in New London County be informed of the large number of boys who are not receiving any religious or moral training. If the clergy as a group become aware of this problem, it is possible that they can cooperate with the schools in working out a program of religious education.

3 - It seems desirable that a good working relationship be established with the schools. From the school records and interviews with teachers, information could be obtained which would be helpful in diagnosis and treatment. Any recommendations made by the psychiatrist, such as the correction of reading difficulties and vocational training, should be discussed with the proper school authorities for the purpose of adjusting the school program to fit the needs of the individual, insofar as it is possible for the school to do this.

4 - Throughout this study the need for recreational facilities has been indicated. It is therefore suggested that service clubs and other organized groups be made aware of this

need.

5 - For the better functioning of the Court as a social agency in the community it is suggested that a definite program of interpretation be undertaken with both lay and professional groups.

Approved,

Richard K. Conant

Richard K. Conant, Dean

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bell, Marjorie, Editor, Probation and Parole Progress 1941 Year Book, National Probation Association, New York.

Bell, Marjorie, Editor, Social Defenses Against Crime 1942 Year Book, National Probation Association, New York.

Chute, Charles L., Juvenile Delinquency in Wartime Reprinted from Probation, June 1943. National Probation Association New York.

Connecticut State Register and Manual 1942. The Peiper Press, Inc., Wallingford, Connecticut.

Faulkner, Fred D., and others, Juvenile Court for the State of Connecticut Annual Report 1942.

Glueck, Sheldon, "Crime Causation", Probation and Parole Progress 1941 Year Book, Marjorie Bell, editor National Probation Association, New York.

Hiller, H. Francis, "Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts" Social Work Year Book 1943, Russell H. Kurtz, editor, New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1941.

Spelke, Max, Is the State of Connecticut Meeting its Responsibilities? Reprinted from Connecticut Bar Journal, October 1942.

APPENDIX

SCHEDULE

I. Personal data:

Name
Date of birth
Color
Personal appearance
Court appearances

Address
Place of birth
Nationality
Nervous habits
Ambitions

Offense	Age	Disposition

Known to any agency
Psychiatric Report
Attitude toward family

II. Physical Condition

III. School achievement

Grades completed
Grades repeated — Why
Attendance
Behavior
Special interest or ability
Attitude toward school

IV. Religious Affiliation

Church
Attendance
Interest in church activities
Attitude toward religion

V. Use of Leisure Time

Part Time Work

Kind of work	Length of time	Age

Recreational Activities
Types of Recreation
Hobbies
Companions

VI. Attitude of boy toward commitment

VII. Family Background

Father

Date of birth
Nationality
Occupation
Education
Health
Attitude toward boy

Address
Place of birth
Citizen
Wages
Religion
Known to agency

Mother

Date of birth
Nationality
Occupation
Education
Health

Address
Place of birth
Citizen
Wages
Religion
Known to agency

Marital status

Living together Separated Divorced Remarried
Reputation of parents

Siblings

Name	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	School Grades	Occupation	Delinquencies	Where Abouts

Neighborhood

SCHOOL REFERRAL ☐

AND

SCHOOL REPORT ☐

TO THE

Juvenile Court for the State of Connecticut

..... District, Town of ....., School ..... Date .....

Name of Child .....
last first initial Address

Father .....
last first initial Address

Mother .....
last first initial Address

Child: Date of Birth ..... Date of School Entrance .....

Present Grade ..... Grades Repeated ..... How many schools attended in last three years .....

Special Class — Yes ( ) No ( ) If so what type .....

Summary of Attendance Record .....

Including Reasons for Non-Attendance .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Description of Child's Behavior .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Indicate any Special Educational Handicaps .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. Given by ..... Date .....

Physical Defects: Vision ..... Hearing ..... Speech .....

Other defects: .....

Has there been a psychiatric examination? Yes ( ) No ( ) Date .....

By whom given ..... Address .....

TEST RECORDS: Educational. Name of test ..... Date .....

E. A. ..... E. Q. ..... Grade Ability .....

Mental. Name of test ..... Date .....

M. A. ..... I. Q. ..... Examiner's Name .....

Recommendations of Examiner .....

.....

.....

(over)

PLEASE SUMMARIZE BELOW YOUR REPORT BY INDICATING:—

1. Dates of conferences with parents and results.

2. Contact with social agencies which have worked with child and the results.

3. Adjustments that have been made in the school program and the child's reaction to them.

4. Any additional remarks that may help the court in understanding this child.

Signed: .....

Title: .....

CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES

SECTION 280f. ESTABLISHMENT DISTRICT. There is established the "Juvenile Court for the State of Connecticut" which shall have and exercise the exclusive original jurisdiction of a juvenile court as provided by law within this state, except in matters of guardianship and adoption and all other matters affecting the property rights of any child over which the probate court has jurisdiction. The court shall have a proper seal, and shall be governed by the procedure provided for juvenile courts by this chapter. Said court shall be held in each of the three districts herein established as follows: First district: The counties of Fairfield and Litchfield. Second district: The counties of New Haven, Middlesex and New London. Third district: The counties of Hartford, Tolland and Windham, Effective January 1, 1942.

SECTION 281f. APPOINTMENT AND TERM OF JUDGES. There shall be three judges of said juvenile court, each of whom shall be an attorney at law, shall devote his entire time to his duties as such judge, shall be a resident of the district within which he is to serve and shall receive an annual salary to be paid by the state of seventy-five hundred dollars. Each judge shall hold the sessions of said court within the district for which he is appointed, at such town or towns therein as the business of said court may require. Upon the absence, disability or disqualification of the judge of any district, the presiding judge may designate the judge of any other district to act, and when so designated he shall have all the powers and duties of the judge appointed for the district in which he is so acting. The presiding judge may, also, after consultation with the board of judges, assign the judge of one district to sit in certain towns in an adjoining district when pressure of cases in such adjoining district shall make such action advisable. Such judges shall be appointed upon nomination of the governor in the same manner as superior court judges are appointed, and in the first instance for the term of two, four and six years, respectively, from the first day of January next succeeding the date of their appointment and until their successors shall have been appointed and shall have qualified. Thereafter each such judge shall be appointed for a term of six years. Such judges shall have all the powers necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. One of such judges shall be designated by the governor to be presiding judge of the court. Each judge shall fix the time and place of hearings within the district from which he is appointed, provided accomodations for holding such hearings shall, so far as possible, be secured without expense to the state. All petitions concerning delinquent children shall be heard within the county where the delinquency is alleged to have occurred or where the

child resides. All other petitions shall be heard within the county where the child resided at the filing of the petition. Effective January 1, 1942.

SECTION 282f. MEETINGS OF JUDGES. The judges of said court shall meet annually, at a time and place designated by the presiding judge, who shall preside at the meeting; and a majority of the entire number of said judges shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The presiding judge may call a special meeting of the judges at such time and place as he may designate, and, when convened, they may transact any business that might be done at the annual meeting. The judges, at any meeting, may make orders and rules to carry into effect the provisions of this chapter, including suitable forms of procedure thereunder. Effective January 1, 1942.

SECTION 283f. APPOINTMENT OF STAFF. The judges of the court shall jointly appoint a clerk of the court and other necessary office personnel and each judge shall appoint a director of probation for his district and such probation officers and clerical assistants as he shall deem necessary, subject to the provisions of section 284f. Any of these appointees may be discharged by the appointing authority for cause and after hearing. The salaries of each of such officials shall be fixed by the judges, which salaries, together with the other expenses of the court, when approved by the judges, shall be paid by the state in the same manner as are the salaries and expenses in the judicial department. The court shall keep records, which, including the records of the probation officers, shall be open for inspection only to persons having a proper interest therein and upon order of the court. The records of the juvenile courts established by chapter 336 of the public acts of 1921, by chapter 260 of the public acts of 1927, and by section 697c shall be records of said court and shall be subject to the terms of this chapter. Effective January 1, 1942.

SECTION 284f. QUALIFICATIONS OF PROBATION STAFF. All juvenile probation personnel, including the directors of juvenile probation and all other necessary supervisory personnel, shall be appointed from a list of persons certified by the state personnel department as being qualified for such appointment and said department shall, from time to time, conduct examinations to establish such lists. All persons employed as full-time juvenile probation officers in service in this state on January 1, 1941, shall be appointed without examination in the first instance juvenile probation officers of this court, at not less than the salaries they were receiving on said date, and they shall retain full rights in any pension system or retirement fund in which they are participating or to which they have contributed. Probation officers shall make such investigations and reports as the court shall direct or the law require. They

shall execute the orders of the court, and for that purpose shall have the authority of a deputy sheriff in each county of the state. They shall preserve a record of all cases investigated or coming under their care, and shall keep informed concerning the conduct and condition of each person under supervision and report thereon to the court as it may direct. Effective January 1, 1942.

SECTION 285f. PETITIONS AND APPEALS. All petitions concerning delinquent children shall be heard within the county where the delinquency is alleged to have occurred or where the child resides, in the discretion of the court. All other petitions shall be heard within the county where the child resided at the time of the filing of the petition. Any person aggrieved by any judgement or order of the court may, within ten days thereafter, appeal to the superior court for the county within which the petition was heard, as hereinafter provided. Pending such appeal, the court may cause the child to be detained in some suitable place as the court may direct, or may release the child in the care of a parent, probation officer or other suitable person, and may require the appellant to enter into a bond or recognizance to the state, with surety or security conditioned that the child shall appear before the appellate court and abide by the order and judgment. All appeals shall be heard at sessions of the superior court to be held solely for the purpose of disposing of juvenile cases and such other matters concerning children or family relations as may be determined by the judges of the superior court. Such sessions shall be held throughout each year by a judge or judges designated at the annual meeting of the judges of the superior court, provided the chief justice may designate any other judge to hold any session or hear any matter whenever he may deem it necessary to do so. The time and place of holding such sessions of the superior court shall be fixed from time to time by the presiding judge and upon such notice to the clerk of the court of the county wherein such session is to be held as such presiding judge shall deem reasonable. The presiding judge shall, at such time and in such manner as he may deem proper, make assignments of the cases to be heard at such sessions, provided no case shall be heard except upon at least one week's notice to the parties and to the commissioner of welfare. The judge holding any such session may, in his discretion, order an investigation to be made by any qualified probation officer or county investigator for the purpose of ascertaining the facts with reference to any matter pending before him and may appoint the public defender to appear for any unrepresented defendant or party in interest, the expenses of which shall be taxed and paid as are other court costs. In the determination of any such case, a written report of any such investigation shall be admissible as evidence, subject to the right of any party to require that the person making such report shall appear in person as a witness and subject himself to cross-examination. In any proceeding brought for the purpose of securing the commitment of

a child under the age of sixteen years, the court and the judge having jurisdiction of such matter shall have all the powers of juvenile courts and the judges thereof and the same procedure shall be followed as provided by statute for such courts, except as otherwise provided herein. Effective January 1, 1942.

SECTION 286f. DISPOSITION OF CASES PENDING JANUARY 1, 1942. On and after January 1, 1942, no county, city, police, town or borough court, justice of the peace or probate judge within the state, or the juvenile courts for Windham and Fairfield counties, shall exercise any jurisdiction over proceedings concerning dependent, uncared-for, neglected and delinquent children within the state and all such cases then pending shall be transferred to the juvenile court for the state, together with the custody of the records pertaining thereto.

SECTION 1857 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 694c. PETITIONS FOR ACTION. The parent or guardian of any child or any selectman or other public official charged by law with the care of the poor, any proscuting or probation officer, the Connecticut Humane Society or the commissioner of welfare, having information that a child is uncared for, neglected, dependent or delinquent, may file with the juvenile court in the district where such child is resident, a verified petition stating such facts as bring the child within the jurisdiction of the court, giving sufficient information to locate and identify him and praying for appropriate action by the court in conformity with the provisions of this chapter. Upon the filing of a petition, the judge may, either forthwith or after investigation, cause summons, signed by him or by the prosecuting attorney of such court, to be issued, requiring the child and the parent or parents, guardian or other persons having control of the child, to appear in court at a time and place named, to show cause why such child should not be dealt with according to the provisions of this chapter. Whenever it shall appear to the judge that orders addressed to an adult, as set forth in section 1856, are necessary for the welfare of such child, similar summons shall be issued and served upon such adult if he is not already in court. Service of summons shall be made by the delivery of a true and attested copy thereof to the person summoned. If, after reasonable effort, personal service shall not have been made, such substitute service, by publication or otherwise, as the judge may order, shall be sufficient. Service may be made by any officer authorized by law to serve process,or by a probation officer or indifferent person, and the court may allow suitable expenses and a reasonable fee therefor.

SECTION 1858. CUSTODY PENDING DISPOSITION. If it shall appear from the petition that the child is in such condition that his welfare requires that his custody be immediately

assumed, the authority issuing the summons may indorse upon the summons a direction that an officer, or other person serving such summons, shall at once take the child into his custody. Such child may, by the judge, be admitted to bail, pending final disposition, or may be released in the custody of the probation officer, his parent or some other suitable person. When not so released, the child may be detained pending the hearing and disposition of the case under and by such order of commitment as the court or judge thereof shall direct. In no case shall a child be confined in a jail or lock-up, or in any place where adults are or may be confined, except in the case of a mother with a nursing infant; nor shall any child at any time be held in solitary confinement. When a girl shall be held in custody, she shall, as far as possible, be in charge of a woman attendant.

SECTION 1859. TEMPORARY DETENTION PLACES. Unless the local authorities shall have provided suitable and permanent accomodations for the detention of children, the judge of each juvenile court shall arrange with some agency or person within its jurisdiction for the use of suitable accomodations to serve as a temporary detention place as may be required. The court may allow such agency or person reasonable compensation for the expenses and services incident to such detention. The judge may employ any other suitable method of arrangement for detention. Each child while detained as herein provided shall be under the orders, direction and supervision of the court.

SECTION 1861. INVESTIGATION. Prior to the hearing of the case of any child, investigation shall be made of the facts as herein specified. Such investigation shall consist of an examination of the parentage and surroundings of the child, his age, habits and history, and shall include also an inquiry into the home conditions, habits and character of his parents or guardians. In cases of alleged delinquent children, such investigation shall be made by the probation officer. In such cases the court shall also, if practicable, cause the child to be examined as to his mentality by a competent and experienced mental examiner, who shall make a report of his findings. Prior to the hearing in the case of any child, if such child shall attend school, there shall be obtained from the school which he attends a report concerning him. The school officials shall furnish such report upon the request of the court or its probation officer. Until such time as such investigations shall have been completed and the results thereof placed before the judge, no disposition of the child's case shall be made.

SECTION 1862. HEARING. Judges of juvenile courts shall, during hearings before them, exclude from the room in which they are held any person whose presence is, in the court's opinion, not necessary. Such hearing shall not be held in a room regularly used for the transaction of criminal business.

For the purpose of such hearings, the court shall have authority to summon witnesses and compel their attendance. The conversations of the judge with a child, whose case is before court, shall be privileged.

SECTION 1863. COMMITMENT. REPORTS. The court, if it shall find that the child needs the care, discipline or protection of the state, may so adjudge and commit the child to any public or private institution or agency which is permitted by law to care for children, commit him to the care and custody of some suitable person, order the child to remain in his own home subject to the supervision of the probation officer or withhold or suspend judgment. Whenever a child brought before the court shall be found to be mentally defective, the court may order his commitment to an institution for mental defectives or defective delinquents, or may order him to be placed on vocational probation if he be over fourteen years of age and evidence satisfactory to such court shall establish the fact that he may properly be employed for part or full time at some useful occupation and that such employment would be more favorable to his welfare than commitment to an institution or continuance in school; and the probation officer shall supervise such employment. Whenever a juvenile court shall commit a child to any institution, public or private, there shall be delivered with the mittimus a copy of the results of the investigations made as required by section 1861. The court may, at any time, require from the person, institution or agency in whose care a child has been placed such report as to such child and his treatment as it may direct. See Appendix (VIII).

APPENDIX (VIII) Juvenile Court may not commit children directly into the care and custody of the Commissioner of Welfare or to the Division of Child Welfare.